

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An electric vehicle drive assembly includes a rigid axle having opposed wheel hubs driven by a gear set. An electric motor is fixedly mounted to a vehicle frame cross member separate from the axle. The electric motor drives a drive shaft which directly drives an input pinion of the gear set. As the input pinion rotates, it meshes with an outer diameter teeth set of a rotatable ring gear to drive a plurality of planet gears and provide a high reduction ratio. The planet gears are rotated about a stationary sun gear and simultaneously rotate a planet carrier and drive an output shaft attached to the wheel hub.

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